

# Butcombe Annual Parish Residents Meeting

## DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 7:30 pm at Butcombe Village Hall

### 1. ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

The following members of the Parish Council and residents were present:

Richard Whittington (RW) – Chairman / Resident  
Justin Milward (JW) – Vice Chairman / Resident  
Trevor Mitchell (TM) – Councilor /Resident  
Ivor Metherall (IM) – Councilor /Resident  
John Collins (JC) – Councillor / Resident  
Deborah Yamanaka (DY)– North Somerset District Councillor  
Clare Collins (CC) – Parish Clerk / Resident  
John Rodaway– Resident  
John Adams - Resident

No apologies were received.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 16th May 2017 were approved and signed by RW.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

### 4. PARISH COUNCILLOR CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report prepared and presented by RW

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2018. My report covers the last twelve months with a look at the year(s) ahead.

#### 1 Planning

Just seven applications this year, from quite minor changes of use to yet another application from the Bungalow Inn, this time to demolish the current building and erect a two-story hotel. We objected on a number of grounds, principally the disproportionate nature of the proposed building, and adverse effect on the local community. A number of local residents also objected, which is really important – Parish Councils have to be consulted by law, but it seems their comments carry no more weight than individual residents. So quantity as well as quality is key! A subsequent appeal was also dismissed (eventually).

There was also a retrospective application from Worship's Farm for change of use to include holiday let. The Council's view was that retrospective planning permission was also required for significant changes to the building structure. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

Other applications included a stable block at Sage's, which was approved with conditions, and making the temporary accommodation at Lake View Stud Farm permanent, which was approved.

#### 2 Bristol Airport and Unauthorised Parking

We continued to express concern about the persistence nuisance of unauthorised parking in and around the Parish. North Somerset Council have eventually taken some action, as a result of which one of the main sites in the Parish has stopped operating, but despite promises of action nothing visible has been done yet about the Quarry park at the top of Howgrove Hill, which is just outside our boundary and falls under the jurisdiction of B&NES Council. This site has particularly dangerous access onto the highway, with very poor visibility.

We recognize the demand for parking facilities, but if alternative sites are used they must surely be subject to some form of regulation for safety and other reasons.

On a more strategic level, the Airport is currently consulting on major development plans, which will be of concern to many residents of Butcombe and neighboring parishes. The issues are quite complex, but I would encourage everyone who has a view to respond to the consultation.

### 3 Highways and maintenance

This continues to be the area that tends to cause most aggravation and frustration. John Collins has continued to do all he can to get action on potholes, flooding, verges and other problems that affect us, but it is increasingly difficult to get action from North Somerset Council, who seem to have no resources to carry out any but the most basic maintenance jobs, and then only in a very small proportion of cases. I would also like to thank John Rodaway for this time and expertise pursuing these issues, as well as helping to keep the steepest hill in North Somerset open when floods turn to ice, not to mention his and Lindsey's efforts collecting countless bags of litter from the "airport waiting zone" during our village litter picks

It looks like the future is not going to be any easier, as we have lost two of our main allies in Jeff Shipway, who has recently left the Council's maintenance team to pursue alternative career options, and Sarah Shaw, who as our Parish Liaison Officer was often able to cut through the Council's bureaucracy and get us to the right person – sadly this is a role that has now been discontinued by North Somerset Council, at least as far as Butcombe is concerned.

We are now reaching the stage where if we want to get action on some of these problems we are going to have to consider self-help, which is one reason why we currently have a fairly healthy level of financial reserves. I am sure many other small Parish Councils are in the same situation.

### 4 Village Website

After the frustrations of Highways and such like, it are good to report a success – as of March 31st we have our own Butcombe Village Website. We had to do this as part of the Government's "transparency legislation" (which fortunately provided the funding to set the website up) but we have done our best to make it relevant. Please encourage everyone to take an interest, let us know what needs to be developed, and hopefully help provide some of the ideas and material to make it of real interest to the community.

### 5 Social Fabric

One of the great things about Butcombe is it's a welcoming as well as a beautiful village. Our facilities are very limited, but St Michael's Church and the Village Hall are vital assets which help to bring the community together in so many ways. This gives us a village center which is really important to our social wellbeing, and I would encourage everyone to get involved in whatever way they can.

### 6 Defibrillator

Part of social fabric is helping people in times of dire emergency, so it's great to be able to report the successful installation of a Defibrillator in the old BT kiosk. This is of course something we really don't want to use very often, but it's most reassuring to know it's there, thanks to the efforts of people in the village, particularly Ivor, ably assisted by Georgina. We also have ten or more people trained up as emergency responders, which should help to ensure that the system is effective.

#### 7 Broadband

Although more than half the village now has access to reasonable broadband speeds (personally I don't think 18 mbps counts as superfast) 30% or more, particularly those on the 01275 exchange, are still excluded. Thanks to the efforts of some of them, we were able to persuade TrueSpeed to include Butcombe in their superfast (genuinely) rollout plans. We were promised installation by Christmas, which seemed rather optimistic, and are still waiting, but there are signs of activity, so we hope it will be in place within a few months.

The point is that villages can manage without public transport, providing people help each other out – but we can't manage satisfactorily without a decent internet connection.

#### 8 Parish Clerk

At last year's meeting, I was pleased to report that Clare had just joined us as Parish Clerk, and I'm pleased to be able to say that she has taken to the role with much enthusiasm and skill. Clare has done a great job getting the Village Website up and running.

#### 9 Looking ahead

Some of the examples above demonstrate the impact that individuals can have in a community like ours. If we want to ensure that Butcombe remains a lovely place to live, it's important that we all do as much as we can to keep things going. The Parish Council has very limited powers, but it does have a role in fostering community spirit, and – armed with our new website – I hope that's something we can build on in the year ahead (notwithstanding the efforts of the GDPR police to get in the way of communication). In twelve months it will be time to elect a new Council to lead the way, and I do hope we will be able to encourage more people to take an interest.

Meanwhile thanks to everyone on the Council for their efforts, and to all the people in Butcombe who do so much to make it such a special place.

### **5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Report prepared and presented by DY

District Councillor's Annual Report for Butcombe May '18

#### Airport Master Plan

The airport ran a consultation from November to January on its proposed master plan to 2050. There will be further consultation from 14th May for 8 weeks, with a full list of drop-in events online at <https://www.bristolairportfuture.com/have-your-say>.

The more local events are:

#### May

- Wednesday 16th: Hampton by Hilton Hotel (Bristol Airport) 4 pm – 8 pm
- Saturday 19th: Dundry Village Hall, Crabtree Lane, Dundry BS41 8LN 10 am – 2 pm
- Wednesday 23rd: Backwell WI Hall, Backwell BS48 3QW 4 pm – 8 pm

- Thursday 24th: Wrington Village Hall, Silver Street, Wrington BS40 5QL 4 pm – 8 pm
- Tuesday 29th: Winter Gardens, Weston Super Mare 4 pm – 8 pm
- Wednesday 30th: Hangstones Pavillion, Yatton BS49 4HS 4 pm – 8 pm

#### June

- Friday 1st: Felton Village Hall, West Lane, Felton BS40 9UP 4 pm – 8 pm
- Tuesday 5th: Cleeve Village Hall 2 Cleeve Hill Rd, Cleeve, Bristol BS49 4PG 4 pm – 8 pm
- Thursday 7th: The Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna BS40 8SH 4 pm – 6 pm
- Thursday 14th: Old School Rooms, Station Rd, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5DY 4 pm – 8 pm
- Friday 22nd: Barrow Gurney Hall, Barrow Gurney 4 pm – 8 pm
- Tuesday 26th: Churchill Memorial Hall Ladymead Lane, Churchill 4 pm – 8 pm
- Saturday 30th: Hampton by Hilton Hotel (Bristol Airport) 10 am – 2 pm

The draft Plan will be published later this year or early next when there will be more consultation. It will then be approved or amended by either North Somerset Council or the Secretary of State for Transport. If growth is expected to be above 10 million passengers per year then the Plan will be decided by the Secretary of State, but if growth is expected to be less than that a planning application will be made to North Somerset Council, which is more likely.

The multi-story car park approved in 2012 should be built soon.

I hope that a free drop-off point may be reinstated as part of any developments in the Master Plan, and also an Airport Park & Ride on the A38 near Bristol.

#### North Somerset Council

##### Budget

NSC voted to increase Council Tax by 5.99% this year, including 3% for adult social care. This year the Government raised the cap from 2% to 3% for other pressures, which is why the increase is greater than recent years. There will still be cuts this year in services such as road repairs, gully emptying, housing support to vulnerable residents, children's services, school transport, libraries, parks & ground maintenance, telephone call center & town hall gateway, & increases in parking charges,

##### Home Care Contract

Last summer Notaro took over the NSC contract in the rural areas for supplying care workers for the elderly needing help at home. Notaro already had the contract for Worle and Banwell and this expansion caused staff shortages leading to unacceptable failures in care. However, agency staff was brought in and the situation improved.

##### Glyphosate use by NSC

NSC has decided to stop using Glyphosate (ie Roundup) for Weed Control in children's play areas but still uses it on the highway whilst the possible use of alternatives is investigated. The application of weed killer on the highway is now restricted to one full cycle per annum (this was previously three applications per annum) in April/May. I understand that Parish Councils and schools will also be contacted with advice on the use of Glyphosate.

Submit evidence online to NSC

Thousands of documents are received by North Somerset Council every month from people providing evidence about their housing benefit or council tax claims.

These documents were previously handed into council offices in person, resulting in hundreds of journeys across North Somerset by bus, car or even by train.

Now, these journeys can be a thing of the past thanks to a new system of uploading documents online. Doing it online means there is no traveling, no queues, and no fuss. You can do it at a time that suits you, the council receives your documents faster, and your account can be amended sooner.

Just complete the form and when you want to attach your evidence, take a photo of it using a smartphone or tablet, or use a scanned image, attach it to the form and submit.

Visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/evidenceupload](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/evidenceupload) to take advantage of the new feature.

Residents will have to use or register an online account for this (see [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/register](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/register)).

## West of England Joint Spatial Plan

Consultation on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan ended in January. The Secretary of State is now considering the consultation responses, and there will be a public hearing in the summer or autumn. Any changes which may be required as a result of the examination process should be put before the 4 West of England Councils either in late 2018 or early 2019.

In the JSP consultation, most objections were for development proposals at Backwell, followed by Nailsea and Churchill.

Other development locations were proposed, including Ashton Vale and Pill/Easton-in-Gordano. NSC's Executive councilors do not favor this because they are against new developments in the Green Belt. However, Bristol City Council proposes more Park & Ride sites around the city, including on the A38 in the Green Belt.

At the same time, NSC is preparing its own Local Plan 2036 which will set out the detailed policies and allocations to deliver the new planning policy once the JSP is confirmed through the examination process. The Local Plan is likely to be adopted at the end of 2019 or early 2020.

A few other planning matters:

- the Government would like Neighbourhood Plans to include housing targets
- NSC is considering a category of the village between Service and Infill
- town and village settlement boundaries may be loosened
- there may be changes to the Green Belt

## 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

TM presented a review of the Parish Council's expenditure for tax year 2017/2018. It was noted that a review of the 2018/2019 budget will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 5th June 2018.

ACTION: CC to prepare/finalise the budget for next meeting.

## 7. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Possible housing developments in Churchill / Banwell were discussed and the potential impacts on the A38 neighboring our Parish. There is currently no consultation dates for the proposed planning and it was decided that when a new consultation period is open we would advise residents so that they can comment on the proposed plans.

ACTION: CC to monitor the Churchill development webpage.

**8. AIRPORT CONSULTATION**

JM provided an overview of the information circulated in relation to the Masterplan. JM will be attending a PCAA meeting tomorrow night (16/05/2018) in which more information will be available.

ACTION: JM to report back from the PCAA meeting to the Council.

JM to also prepare a report on the current situation that CC can put on the village website for residents to understand how and when they can comment on the next consultations.

CC to put the report on the website.

Councilor IM left the meeting at 8:45 pm

**9. PARISH PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

TM reported that in the recent warm weather a number of people have been relaxing in the Bay area of Blagdon Lake that resides in Butcombe Parish. The bay is a beauty spot and is currently in bloom with wild orchids. TM reported that rubbish has been left behind by groups of people.

ACTION: Council to speak to Bristol Water and establish if the Bay can be monitored as being used for recreational activities. Establish if the wild orchids can be protected.

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm

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Signed: R Whittington	Date
Chairman	